THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) It is a fact that doctors in our country use Methyle cellulose for cataract operation. However, no significant Scientific reports are available indicating its disadvantages. Authentic information about its use in other countries is not available.

(b) Question does not arise.

Manufacturing of Drugs By Unlicensed Companies

2052. SHRI R.T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of medicines are being manufactured by the unlicensed companies and sold in the market; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The manufacture of Drugs without a valid licence is an offence under Section 18 (c) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, If any person/ company is found manufacturing drugs without a licence action is taken by the State Licensing Autority under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder. Appropriate action is taken wherever an instance of an unlicensed Company manufacturing drugs comes to light.

Population Control

2053. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HELATH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state what are the details of the policies for controlling the population explosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): Population Control forms an integral part of the planning process. The new policies relating to Population Control aim at adopting a wholistic approach. They aim at giving due importance to socio-economic factors like female literacy, status of women, employment of women, right age of marriage of girls, attitudinal changes in regard to strong son preference etc., besides improving the performance of the Family Welfare programme. They recognise the importance of improvement of the quality and out-reach of family welfare services, reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality, eliciting larger participation of the people in population control efforts and the need to have strong administrative support and political will for pursuing the population control programme. A Committee of the National Development Council on population has been set up to take into account the multi-sectoral dimension of the population issues and to evolve a National population policy. In the light of these, an Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with State Governments and Union Territories Administration for imparting a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare programme. Population control is a thrust area in the VIII Five Year Plan and foremost priority is being accorded to it.

Agitation by Pharmacists

2054. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pharmacists of MCD, NDMC, ESI and Central Government have been agitating for better promotional avenues; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The demands include creation of the posts of Head Pharmacist in the pay scale of Rs. 1640-2900 and Chief Pharmacist in the grade of Rs. 2000-3200.

(b) The proposal to create promotional avenues for the CGHS pharmacists is under consideration. Based on the decision in this regard, the demands of pharmacists working in other departments/organisations will be considered by the respective organization.